

communication from Gen. Johnston, of the rebel army, to Maj.-Gen. McClellan came to the outposts of Gen. McDowell's Division. The paper was forwarded to headquarters.

THE ADVICES FROM EUROPE.

The tenor of the European advices received by the representatives of foreign powers here is as favorable as the dispatches to the State Department.

THE TAX ON WHISKY.

Large dealers, who are pleading on behalf of the whisky interest with the Committee of Ways and Means, make the almost incredible assertion that the total products of all the distilleries in the United is not less than 600,000,000 gallons. If so, a tax of 10 per cent will not a very pretty sum for the Treasury. Probably a still larger tax will be imposed.

DISMISSED FROM SERVICE.

Captain Waller Johnson of the Union Coast Guard, convicted by Court-martial convened by Gen. Wool, of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, in improper conduct and language toward sentries, when he was officer of the Guard, and in improper intimacy with a woman of questionable character, at his quarters, has been dismissed from the service.

PREPARATIONS FOR AN ADVANCE.

An order has been issued to the commanders of Divisions in Virginia directing all surplus baggage not actually needed for troops on the march, to be sent here and warehoused. Another order has been issued to the surgeons in charge of Hospitals in this city to send the convalescent patients to Annapolis and elsewhere, and otherwise to have ready as many spare beds as possible.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 3, 1862.

HEAVY FIRING IN THE REAR OF BIRDFORT, N. C.

The following communication has been received at the Navy Department, from Capt. John Marion, dated U. S. Steamer Roanoke, Hampton Roads, Feb. 1:

"I have the honor to report to you the arrival, during the past night, of the bark *Gembok* from Beaufort, No. C. Capt. Cavendish informs me that on Tuesday, the 28th ult., he heard heavy firing in the rear of Beaufort, but he has no conjecture from whence it proceeded.

Capt. Cavendish also reports that on Thursday, the 30th of January, at 9 o'clock in the morning, while off Beaufort Inlet, he heard heavy firing in the direction of Beaufort Island, which leaves no doubt in my mind that flag officer Goldsborough is at work."

TEXAN TELEGRAPH MESSAGES.

The result of the examination recently made by the telegraphic interest shows that during the past year there were 2,200,000 messages transmitted over all the lines during the period of time, the value of which was \$1,200,000, yielding a total revenue of \$1,200,000. The Senate Congress, in the new Tax bill, impose three cents on each message, a little over \$3,600,000 only would be realized from that source, or 30 per cent on the aggregate amount of business.

The representatives of telegraphic interests now here, have suggested to the Committee of Ways and Means their readiness to pay taxes on their messages, and thus contribute to the support of the Government.

THE BURIAL OF SOLDIERS.

So vast an army has been marshaled in this District that proper arrangements have been made to care for the proper interment of those who die in our hospitals. Their bodies have often been buried in the nearest place of sepulture, where they have been promiscuously buried together. Many relatives and friends have consequently made fruitless efforts to the Army of the Potomac to recover the dead bodies of their deceased friends. This sad state of things has arrested attention in Congress, through the exertions of Representatives Davis, and a Committee is now charged with the duty of considering the subject of providing a national cemetery for the soldiers in this neighborhood, where all our fellow-citizens who die in the National cause may find a resting place and their graves become matters of record, and to the end that no one may exist as to the identity of those who repose within them. From the general disposition manifested, there seems to be no doubt that an act for the proposed will be passed.

THE TREASURY NOTE BILL.

The Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Seward, will endeavor to bring the House to a vote on the Treasury bill on Thursday.

Repeal of the Hopper's speech today was listened to with marked attention, it being considered a clear exposition of the Treasury Department on the financial question.

The Secretary has suggested amendments proposing against counterfeiting, and directing the measure in which the notes are to be executed.

THE PRIVATEERS.

An inexcusable error appears in yesterday's dispatch. Instead of privateers being released from Fort Lafayette, the order was to transfer them to the military authorities.

APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

The Senate was in Executive Session nearly five hours today. They confirmed from 300 to 300 appointments and promotions in the old army, and, as far as can be ascertained, the following named gentlemen to Brigadier-Generals of Volunteers:

Col. Edmund D. Keyes, Major John W. Davidson, Major E. P. Patterson, Major Abner Doubleday, Lieut.-Col. Keckler, David B. Birney, W. H. Keim, John M. Palmer, James Cooper, H. W. Slocum, James N. Wadsworth, John J. Peck, O. M. Mitchell, George W. Morell, John H. Martindale, Major H. W. Benham, Capt. W. F. Smith, James W. Denver, Col. George H. Thomas, Erastus Viele, James S. Negley, W. J. T. Dana, Thomas F. Meagher, Col. Abercrombie, Col. Sedgwick, Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Smith, Lieutenant-Col. Casey, Capt. George G. Meade, Abram Durkee, Capt. Alex. McCook, Oliver O. Howard, Eleazar Paine, Charles D. Jimerson, Eleazer Dumont, Robert H. Milroy, Lewis Wallace, Wm. A. Richardson, Daniel Butterfield, Major Horatio G. Wright, Capt. Ord, Lieut. Wm. Nelson, Col. Randolph B. Marcy, Maj. John G. Barnard, Maj. Seth Williams, Maj. Stewart Van Vliet, Maj. John Newton, Capt. Wm. Field S. Hancock, Thomas L. Chittenden, Col. Gen. Wright, Maj. Thomas Williams, Capt. Wm. H. French, Capt. T. H. Brooks, Capt. John M. Brannan, Capt. John P. Hatch, Capt. Davide Stanley, Lieut.-Col. Thomas J. Wood, Capt. Richard W. Johnson, Capt. John G. Foster, Maj. Christopher C. Augur, Maj. George W. Cutts, Col. Schuyler Hamilton, Capt. John M. Schofield. Additional Paymasters, Thomas J. McKean, Capt. John G. Parker.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REBELS.

Yesterday afternoon a flag of truce from Gen. Johnston reached the outposts of Gen. McDowell's division. The dispatches were brought by Col. Harlan of the 1st Virginia Cavalry. He was permitted to proceed no further. The sealed communication was brought to headquarters here by Capt. Drouillard. The contents have not yet transpired.

GEN. STONE.

Gen. Stone will return to his command to-morrow.

THE MILL SPRING BATTLE.

LAWRENCE, Monday, Feb. 3, 1862.

Capt. W. A. Ross of Nassau, belonging to

Gen. Zollicoffer's staff, wounded near Somerset, is dead.

Major Cliff, Surgeon of Zollicoffer's Brigade, taken prisoner at Somerset, is here and will be sent to Bowling Green on Tuesday to be exchanged, it is thought.

Gen. Buell will arrange for the exemption of all Surgeons from arrest hereafter.

LATE FROM THE SOUTH.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING IN MEMPHIS—HOW THE CONFEDERATES LIKE THE WAR—STRENGTH OF THE REBEL FORCES AT DIFFERENT POINTS—GALVESTON IN POSSESSION OF THE UNION TROOPS.

From the *Cincinnati Gazette*.

A gentleman who formerly resided in this city, but has lived in the South for 18 months past, arrived in town yesterday from Memphis, which place he left on Sunday, Jan. 19. In an interview with him we learned the following facts:

Business in Memphis is completely prostrated. Two thirds of the business houses are closed altogether; the others keep open from 9 o'clock in the morning until 3 in the afternoon. The streets are desolate, and not more than one-half of the dwellings occupied.

Shortly after the breaking out of the war about 3,000 men left for the North. Since then nine-tenths of the able-bodied men of the city have enlisted in the Southern army. The women are very zealous in the cause of Secession, and have formed more than twenty societies for the manufacture of wearing apparel for the soldiers. Provisions are very high in the South, as our readers are already aware. In Memphis flour sells from \$2 to \$12 per barrel; bacon 35 to 40 cents per pound. Fresh pork is sold at 10 cents per pound—the lowness of the price being accounted for by the fact that salt is so scarce as to command \$1 per sack. Coffee is sold at from 60 to 75 cents per pound, and would be dearer still but for the plenty of substitutes, which are so freely used as to make the demand for the genuine coffee very small. The leading men of the South have so long been accustomed to the use of rice, that they find it easy to take instead of Rio.

Unless the blockade is raised, very soon the Dixie provinces will be reduced into one grand state—a state of Egyptian darkness. Candles are in demand at \$1.25 per pound, and these very poor quality.

The scarcity of coal has compelled the manufacturers of gas to mix a great deal of resin with the black diamonds. The consequence is, that the people of Memphis go through the gas darkly, and are constantly crying for "light—more light!" Soap is another scarce article. It sells as high as candles—not less than \$1 per pound. In boarding houses, as a consequence, one has to subscribe the expenses of several facets. But the article which the Southern heart feels the need of is whisky, and that has gone up to \$3.50 per gallon—hardly to be had even at that.

Clothing is very dear. Overcoats, such as can be obtained here for \$10, are sold in Memphis for \$40 to \$50. Pantaloons and other articles in proportion.

As we could learn, \$7,000,000 worth of cotton is in the port of New Orleans, there is a great dearth also. A paper of needles, worth ten cents here, cannot be had for less than \$1.50 there.

Confederate notes are taken at par for goods and debts. They constitute the principal circulating medium. Northern bank notes are also taken at par. Stampers flood the whole country, and pass current everywhere. Gold and silver are scarce, the former at a premium of 40 to 50 per cent, the latter at a premium of 20 to 30 per cent.

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There is a rumour, but not generally believed, that Gen. Price has recently been reinforced by 12,000 all these troubous indications, that the people of the South are not in earnest in their effort to overthrow the Government. There may be a little of the dormant Union spirit in Tennessee, but it seems to have no desire to burst forth. The Southerners are confident that success will crown their efforts, and they have united to make a bold struggle. One thing that serves partly to keep up their spirits is the unflinching disposition to be evicted by the Secessionists.

In the newspapers, in the daily press, in the *Memphis Appeal*, there is a great scarcity of printing paper all through the South. The proprietors of the *Memphis Appeal* were recently visited all the large cities of the South to buy up what paper of large size they could find for sale. They failed to obtain any of the right dimensions, and were obliged to cut the "area" of their sheet in consequence. The Telegraph has not operated very well lately, for lack of the necessary battery supplies. This offers no great obstruction, however, to the enterprise of Southern journalists, as they usually have more "space" when the lines are down than at any other time.

It is a great mistake to suppose, notwithstanding all these troubous indications, that the people of the South are not in earnest in their effort to overthrow the Government. There may be a little of the dormant Union spirit in Tennessee, but it seems to have no desire to burst forth. The Southerners are confident that success will crown their efforts, and they have united to make a bold struggle. One thing that serves partly to keep up their spirits is the unflinching disposition to be evicted by the Secessionists.

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